

FALL

2008

# The Dispatch



DOJ2008

## \*\*\*\*\*A MESSAGE FROM OUR ACTING US ATTORNEY\*\*\*\*\*

I'm honored to be addressing you as the Acting United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan. I have been appointed to serve in this position until approximately March, 2009, or until my successor is confirmed. I've had the privilege of working with many of you on the Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee (LECC), during my 16 years as an Assistant U.S. Attorney and as First Assistant U.S. Attorney and I am a big supporter of the mission of the LECC.

My goal as Acting U.S. Attorney is to continue to focus on our office's priorities such as counter-terrorism, public corruption, mortgage fraud, Internet child exploitation and violent crimes. Over the past several years, we have seen the dismantling of some of the largest drug organizations, convicted violent repeat offenders

under Project Safe Neighborhoods, taken dozens of child sex offenders off the streets through our Project Safe Childhood program, enhanced our office's efforts aimed at cracking down on the escalating problem of mortgage fraud and continued to investigate and prosecute public officials who breach their duties and violate the public trust.

The numerous successful prosecutions our office has seen could not be accomplished or even begun, without the hard work and dedication of our law enforcement partners. The work you do is vital to the overall mission of my office. I applaud all the members of the LECC for working together to make the Eastern District of Michigan an example of what can happen when agencies collaborate effectively in order to make our District safer for our citizens.



I'm a firm believer that communication is key in maintaining the high standards we have set in this District. I encourage anyone who wishes to discuss issues dealing with our programs, policies or procedures to contact me. My door is always open.

Sincerely,

Terrence Berg

Acting United States Attorney

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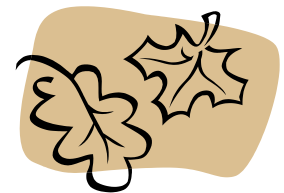
DEFY 2008 6

TRAINING 7  
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## Victim /Witness news

The United States Attorney's Office welcomes LeOra Wright to the staff as the Victim Assistant to Victim Witness Coordinator. LeOra attends Eastern Michigan University and will graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice. LeOra will take the LSAT in 2009 and hopes to begin school that same year. LeOra's primary responsibilities include maintaining the VNS database and has done an excellent job thus far working with various law enforcement agencies to insure victim information is input into the VNS database, updated, and accurate. The Eastern District of Michigan was one of five co-hosts to the

Fourteenth Annual Great Lakes Native American Conference, held in Manistee Michigan September 16 through 18, 2008. Members of various tribal reservations in addition to individuals who work closely with Native American tribes were in attendance. The conference focused on various victim assistance related issues Native American Tribes are facing in the 21st century. To be put on the mailing list for information regarding the 2009 conference, please contact Sandy Palazzolo at 313-226-9633 or e-mail at [sandy.palazzolo@usdoj.gov](mailto:sandy.palazzolo@usdoj.gov)



LeOra Wright, V W Assis-





### USAMIE's Five Point Canadian Plan Introduced

A new five-point plan aimed at bolstering USAMIE's capacity to engage more effectively in international law enforcement activities with Canadian authorities, and fostering a more cooperative relationship between federal prosecutors in Detroit and their law enforcement counterparts in Canada was introduced in late June 2008, as a result of a series of meeting between Canadian and US Law Enforcement Officials.

The United States Attorney's office for the Eastern District of Michigan employs more than 100 Assistant United States Attorneys, and more than sixty of those attorneys prosecute criminal matters. Of those matters, many touch on issues or persons involving activities on the Canadian side of the border.

The Detroit-Windsor border crossings at the Ambassador Bridge, Port Huron Bridge, and the Windsor-Detroit Tunnel as well as the port of entry at Detroit Metropolitan Airport account for the largest concentration of commercial activity at the Canadian-United States border.

Detroit is the largest American city that actually touches the nation's northern border and the United States Attorney's office in Detroit is the largest U.S. Attorney's office in America that is actually situated at the U.S.-Canadian border.

The variety of international matters that Assistant United States Attorneys in the Eastern District of Michigan work on is almost limitless, with immigration matters, drug smuggling, customs offenses, human trafficking

prosecutions, international security matters, intellectual property and white collar matters, firearms trafficking and child exploitation matters all straddling the border and taking up a large number of office resources.

As a result, USAMIE's plan of action consists of the following five points:

- 1) Improving regular communication with Canadian law enforcement agencies.
- 2) Initiating regular meetings on both sides of the border with Canadian law enforcement agencies.
- 3) Providing for more Canadian and international presence in existing domestic task forces.
- 4) Assigning Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric Straus, Chief of the district's National Security and Criminal Division, responsibility for coordinating international law enforcement matters. Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew Schneider, who accompanied Murphy to Canada, will continue to function in a support role as well.
- 5) Leveraging contacts with Canadian law enforcement agencies to enhance training and coordination efforts.

USAMIE made this announcement upon returning from a five-day trip to Ottawa and Toronto, Ontario, with Assistant U.S. Attorney Schneider and Law Enforcement Specialist Robert Poikey. While in Ottawa, meetings took place with with U.S. Ambassador to Canada, the Hon. David Wilkins; Thomas A.





Back row from left—Inspect. Seale-Irving and Sgt. Kipman, Marine/Ports Branch; Former USA Murphy; Acting Director Cabana, Immigration/Passports; Supt. Simmonds, Federal/Int'l operations; Supt. Coons, Customs/Excise Branch; Director Banco, IBETS/CPB. Front Row: Asst LegAt Fuentes, ICE, LECS Poikey,



Toronto Meeting



From Left to Right: AUSA Schneider, American Ambassador to Canada David C. Wilkins, Former USA Murphy; LECS Poikey.



Windsor Meeting

Pictured above are agency representatives that participated in the Windsor meeting from the Canadian Crown Attorney's Office, Ontario Provincial Police, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Windsor Police Service, ATF, ICE, FBI, and USAO.

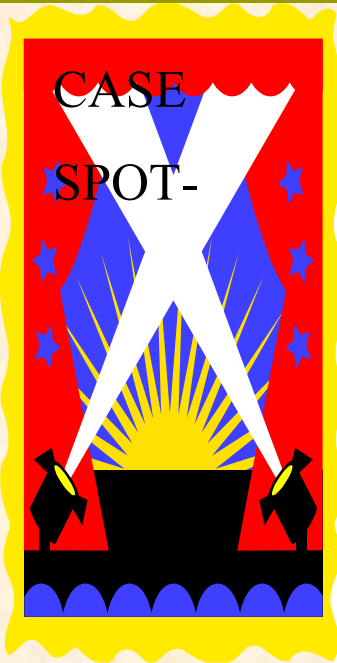


The crew from DEA, USAMIE, Ontario Provincial Police, Toronto Police marine Division, and ATF Prepared for the water exercise on the bay.



From Left : Former USA Murphy and Chief Crawford, Toronto Police Marine





## BANK ROBBERY BOSS AGREES TO SERVE 215 YEARS IN PRISON

The leader of an armed bank robbery gang pleaded guilty and agreed to serve a mandatory minimum sentence of 215 years imprisonment.

Andre Jones, a/k/a Donlay Holiday, 28, of Detroit pleaded guilty to 9 counts of bank robbery, 10 firearm counts, and two counts of conspiracy. Jones admitted to robbing the following nine banks:

1. October 31, 2005 – TCF Bank, 92,055
2. March 16, 2006 -- ChasBank, \$157,728
3. January 2, 2007 -- LaSalle Bank, \$116,170
4. March 16, 2007 -- Chase, \$117,818
5. June 25, 2007 -- TCF Bank, \$37,429
6. July 11, 2007 – Franklin Bank, \$0
7. August 7, 2007 – National City, \$77,048
8. October 11, 2007 -- Fifth Third, \$41,642
9. November 14, 2007 – Chawes, \$1,600

During each robbery, Jones was armed with an AK-47-style assault rifle or a handgun. During the November 14, 2007 Sterling Heights robbery, Jones admitted to shooting a

bank teller in the leg.

Jones also admitted to arranging robberies at a Fifth Third Bank and a Citizens Bank, both in Flint, during the summer of 2006, but not participating in the heists himself. In total, Jones and his crew took more than \$550,000 during the 11 robberies.

As part of his plea, Jones also admitted to shooting a Detroit Police Department officer on December 11, 2007. Jones shot the officer as he approached a Cadillac Escalade in which Jones had slept that night.

Three other defendants in the case had previously pleaded guilty. Terez Deon Rivers, 33, faces 10 years imprisonment, and Frederick Samuel Humes, Jr., 29, faces 15 years for each serving as getaway drivers for a handful of the robberies. Sparkle Eldridge, 23, faces up to 5 years imprisonment for driving for one of the robberies.

The last remaining defendant, Jawan Martin, 28, is scheduled to begin trial on Thursday, September 18 on 21 counts of a Second Superseding Indictment. An indictment is only a charging document. A defendant is presumed innocent and it is the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Leonid Feller and Mark Chasteen.



## ONE DEFENDANT PLEADS GUILTY, ANOTHER RECEIVES 12 YEARS IN CAR JACKING

Shawnta Jones, 28, of Detroit, was sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment, and Brandon Taylor, 21, of Detroit, pled guilty to multiple carjackings, before United States District Judge David M. Lawson. Taylor will be sentenced on December 18, 2008.

The investigation arose after a Department of Justice (DOJ) employee was car-jacked on January 4, 2008 after leaving a Chase Bank ATM on Grand River and Fenkell in Detroit. The DOJ employee was followed home from the bank and robbed, by

Taylor, of her cash, car, and purse (which contained government property). The investigation of the car jacking of the federal employee led authorities to evidence linking Taylor to four additional separate carjackings.

Ms. Jones and Taylor would communicate by cell phone. Taylor would tell Jones where to pick him up after he abandoned the carjacked vehicle. Jones was sentenced as an aider and abettor on five counts: two counts of car jacking; and one count each of

robbery of government property; receipt, disposal of government property; and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a crime of violence.

Taylor pleaded guilty to seven counts, including five carjackings.

The FBI's investigation revealed that the duo had performed approximately six other similar carjackings over a span of two months from December 2007 through January of 2008.

Seven years imprisonment is required upon conviction of the gun charge and Judge Lawson then ordered an additional five years on the remaining charges for a total of 12 years imprisonment.

The case was the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Terrence R. Haugabook.



## LEADER OF SAGINAW DRUG GANG CONVICTED FOR DISTRIBUTING CRACK COCAINE

A 32-year-old Saginaw man, Stanley Thomas Brazil Jr. was found guilty by a federal jury in Bay City on charges of distributing more than 50 grams of crack cocaine.

The jury deliberated for approximately seven hours before returning the verdict, concluding a six-day trial before United States District Judge Thomas Ludington.

The trial was the culmination of a 3 year investigation of the Sunnyside Gang by agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Michigan State Police and the Saginaw Police Department. The investigation, conducted in two phases, resulted in the conviction of 29

individuals in federal court, 10 individuals in state court, and the removal of approximately 1.5 kilograms of cocaine off the streets of Saginaw.

U.S. Attorney Berg stated, "This investigation is a tremendous example of the results that can be attained through inter-agency cooperation and dogged determination."

Special Agent in Charge Brandon said, "Organized drug gangs jeopardize the safety of many in the Saginaw community. Targeting armed and violent drug and gang offenders remains a high priority for ATF and the Justice Department. I commend the outstanding collaboration of the local, state and federal law enforcement in undertaking this sweeping investigation."

Mr. Berg commended the work of the agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the FBI, the Michigan State Police and the Saginaw Police Department.

The sentencing of Brazil will take place on January 7, 2009, at 2:30 pm. Brazil faces a sentencing guideline range of 20 years to life imprisonment and a fine of \$8,000,000.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Norman Donker



## THIRTY YEARS FOR FORMER FUGITIVE COCAINE DISTRIBUTOR



A former federal fugitive, who fled the state of Michigan, after pleading guilty to distributing cocaine in Ypsilanti, Michigan was sentenced to 360 months (30 years) imprisonment.

Christopher Todd Mite, 37, of Ypsilanti, was sentenced by United States District Judge Lawrence P. Zatkoff.

Mite pleaded guilty in August 2007 to one count of Distribution of 500 grams or More of Cocaine. The offense arose from Mite's sale of approximately one kilogram of cocaine to a law enforcement confidential informant in April of 2007.

After his guilty plea, the court scheduled his sentencing to occur on December 4, 2007. However, between his guilty plea and sentencing date, Mite fled the jurisdiction, obtained false identification documents and ultimately traveled to California.

Thus, Mite failed to appear at the originally-scheduled sentencing hearing.

The United States Marshal Service ("USMS") for the Eastern District of Michigan initiated an investigation into Mite's whereabouts. Through the use of one or more confidential informants, as well as telephone records reviews and the assistance of the USMS of Oakland, California, the marshals apprehended Mite on January 3, 2008 at the Oakland Airport. At the time of his arrest, Mite had on his person, a social security card in the name of Joseph Daniel Coward and an Ohio State identification card issued in that same name on December 10, 2007.

This is an example of how effective our oldest law enforcement agency, the U.S. Marshal's Service, is in apprehending those defendants who try to avoid the consequences of their actions.

Prior to his flight from the jurisdiction, Mite was facing a sentence under the United States Sentencing Guidelines of 262 to 327 months. However, his flight from the jurisdiction coupled with his efforts to evade arrest through the use of false documents, resulted in a rescission of his acceptance of responsibility for his crime. He was also assessed additional responsibility for attempting to obstruct justice. Therefore, his applicable sentencing range increased to 360 months to life imprisonment. He received 360 months of incarceration to be followed by a period of eight (8) years of supervised release.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Stephanie Dawkins Davis.

## Leaders of BMF get 30 years



Terry Flenory and demetruis Flenory, brothers that led the large scale drug trafficking organization known at the Black Mafia Family(BMF), were sentenced to thirty years for leading a criminal enterprise and 20 years for money laundering.

According to charges in the indictment, the brothers operated a drug organization with dealt with multi-kilogram quantities of cocaine. These activities extended into parts of Michigan, Missouri, Kentucky, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, California, and Texas.

Members of the organization would deposit large quantities of cash derived from cocaine sales into various bank accounts which would be used to purchase cashiers checks or would be transferred to purchase assets or pay personal expenses in an attempt to provide a legitimate source of cash.

Members of the organization would also purchase winning four-digit state of Michigan lottery tickets with drug proceeds from an individual who obtain them for true winners in cash. These winning tickets, valued at over \$1 million, would be redeemed with the State of Michigan Lottery Bureau

and used to purchase homes, make mortgage payments, and purchase vehicles.

Since the indictment in the case the government has forfeited over \$19 million in assets. To date, forfeitures associated with BMF includes jewelry valued in the millions, 13 residences, 35 vehicles, \$5 million in cash, and numerous bank accounts and money judgement totaling \$270 million.

The case was prosecuted by Dawn Ison, Mike Liebson and Julie Beck.

## JACKSON MICHIGAN MAN CONVICTED OF DRUG CONSPIRACY



Ahmad Khilia Daniels, of Jackson, Michigan, was found guilty by a federal jury in Ann Arbor, Michigan on four counts of an Indictment charging him with crack cocaine and heroin conspiracy, as well as federal firearms violations.

The evidence at trial showed that from late 2004 through March, 2006, DANIELS, along with co-defendants Labaron Wardlaw, Anthony Travis, Rodney Hollis, Nequita Jackson and others, conspired to possess and distribute over 50 grams of crack cocaine and a quantity of heroin, in

the city of Jackson, Michigan. Testimony at the trial also established that ATF agents and officers of the Jackson Police Department executed a search warrant at DANIELS home located at 618 Center Street, Jackson, Michigan. A large quantity of crack cocaine, heroin, narcotics packaging materials, drug paraphernalia, three firearms and ammunition were recovered during the search. One of the firearms had an obliterated serial federal

Co-defendants Wardlaw, Travis, Hollis and Jackson have all pleaded

guilty and are awaiting sentencing. Another defendant is currently awaiting trial.

The case was investigated by Project Safe Neighborhoods Task Force.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys David Portelli and Susan Gillooly







# DEFY CAMP 2008



Smiles!

## What is DEFY?

Drug Education for Youth (DEFY), developed by the Department of the Navy's Drug Demand Reduction Task Force staff, is a comprehensive and multiphased prevention program for kids ages 9 to 12. DEFY deters at-risk behaviors by giving kids the tools they need to resist drugs, gangs, and alcohol and includes skill-based activities that help youth positively shape their future. The leadership and life skills provided by DEFY include goal setting, team building, conflict resolution, and decision-making. Simply stated, DEFY has three goals:

- ❖ To develop relationships between youth and positive adult role models.
- ❖ To deliver life-skills training.
- ❖ To deter drug use and gang involvement.

The US Attorney's Office in the Eastern District of Michigan along with the Weed and Seed Sites and the Dept. of the Army have host DEFY camp for youth for 12 years.

\*The 2008 DEFY Camp was a huge success and was very well received by the youth that participated. The camp provide opportunity of youth that exhibit at-risk behavior to interact with mentors from US Marshals, ATF, DEA, ICE, Secret Service, Detroit Police Dept., Wayne County Sheriff Dept., Genesee County Sheriff Dept., Flint Police Depart., Inkster Police Dept., US Army, and the USAO. Mentors interact with youth one on one as well as via presentations that that assist in fostering behavior that will assist youth in the learning module of DEFY.

The camp is followed by a second phase where the youth attend activities with the Weed and Seed sites to continue fostering positive behavior over the next year.

The US Attorney's office would like to extend sincere appreciate and thanks to all of the mentors that assisted, AUSA Nancy Abraham, Camp Director Laci Blaine-Harris, and Aniela Guset, US Army. Without the dedication from these volunteers, the camp would not be the success it has been over the last twelve years.



\*Pictures of law enforcement mentors that work undercover have been removed for security reasons.



DEBRIEF WITH BRIAN

HONESTY  
CARING  
RESPECT  
RESPONSIBILITY



TEAM BUILDING



HARD AT WORK



Peer Pressure

Build ups and Put Downs



PERSEVERE



Gun Safety



Waterford Township Police Department

SWAT



Officer Antcliff and Barry

## TRAINING 2009

THE TRAINING CALENDAR FOR 2009 WILL BE POSTED ON THE USAMIE WEBSITE THE FIRST PART OF NOVEMBER, 2008. AS TRAININGS ARE PLANNED, THEY WILL BE ADDED TO THE WEBSITE FOR NOTIFICATION PURPOSES.

Presently there are two training being scheduled for after January, 2008

1. Asset Forfeiture
2. Terrorism Trends and Tactics

SPECIAL THANKS TO GINA BALAYA, SUSAN PLOCHINKI AND SANDY PALAZZOLO FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS NEWSLETTER